

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claims 1, 4, and 8 have been amended for clarification. There are no issues of new matter. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bezos et al. (European Patent Application EP 0 927 945, published on 07 July 1999). Applicants traverse the rejection.

The examiner states that the claims refer to a single “orderer’s” groups, rather than multiple “orderers” groups described in the specification (see page 37, lines 19-21 of the Office Action). Claims 1, 4, and 8 have been amended to correctly refer to the multiple orderers’ groups.

The claims, as amended, define a system, method, and computer readable recording medium for managing address data comprising a number of elements in combination. In representative claim 1, for example, the claimed combination includes an address data storing unit which stores destination address data of candidates for a recipient of merchandise. The destination address data is categorized based on orderers' groups to which each of a plurality of merchandise orderers belongs, and identification data unique to each of the plurality of orderers.

In contrast, Bezos teaches “Alternatively, a single address book for a user containing the information for all possible recipients can be maintained. The user specifies a group by indicating some of the recipients whose addresses are in the address book. The use of address books facilitates, the maintaining of multiple groups that have one or more recipients in common” (paragraph 28, lines 35-49).

Bezos thereby teaches that information for all possible recipients in the address book may be categorized based on multiple groups, each of which has one or more recipients. However, each such multiple group is associated with only a single orderer, since the address book is the personal address book of the orderer. Consequently, Bezos' address book must be individually

prepared for each orderer (i.e., each user). Bezos fails to disclose or suggest categorizing address information based on multiple groups having several different orderers.

The examiner states that the multiple gift recipients in the groups of Bezos' address book can be potential orderers of merchandise (see page 37, lines 21-22 of the Office Action). However, this is mere speculation and not disclosed in the cited portions of Bezos. For Bezos to anticipate a claim, each and every element of the claim must be disclosed in Bezos. Therefore, since Bezos does not disclose or suggest that the gift recipients are in fact groups of orderers of merchandise, Bezos does not anticipate the claimed subject matter, where there are orderers' groups to which each of a plurality of orderers for merchandise belongs and each of those orderers' groups may include a plurality of different members.

Moreover, amended claims 1, 4 and 8 recite that destination address data of candidates for receipt of merchandise is categorized based on the orderers' groups. Therefore, the destination address data can be commonly used among all members who belong to one of the orderers' groups. A similar combination of elements is neither disclosed nor suggested by Bezos.

The examiner states further that in Bezos multiple groups have one or more recipients in common (see page 38, lines 10-13 of the Office Action). However, as stated previously, the multiple groups of recipients in Bezos are not the claimed orderers' groups, where there are orderers' groups to which each of a plurality of orderers for merchandise belongs and each of those orderers' groups may include a plurality of different members.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and

authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 116692004400.

Dated: December 6, 2007

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